

Meeting Minutes: Virginia Indian Advisory Board Workgroup 01.05.2022

- Buck Woodard opens meeting
- Attendance: Woodard, Ross, Cornsilk, Smithers, Hatch, Abbey Phillips, Courtney Wynn, Kelly Thomasson
- Public comment expected at the end
- David Cornsilk motions to amend minutes and adopt as amended
 - 2nd by Pam Ross
 - Aye voice vote
- Agenda adopted for Jan 5th
 - Motion by Greg Smithers
 - 2nd by Cornsilk
 - Adopted by voice vote
- Secretary Thomasson gives administration transition update
- Woodard discusses meeting format going forward
 - Discusses public comment coming at the end
 - Cornsilk & Ross echo this sentiment
- Ross asks if review process is collaborative- go back to petitioner and ask for more documents if something is incomplete or reject?
- Cornsilk- his understanding is that we contact petitioner to let them know what criteria is lacking, and give them an opportunity to fill that gap
- Abbey provides reference to workgroup statute
- Cornsilk motions that presentations are limited to 3-5 minutes so as not to detract from meeting time
- Discussion on rules of order for future board meetings
- Ross- decision must be made on interested parties who want to make presentations, as well as time limits on public comments
- Cornsilk motion- 3-5 min for public commentary
 - 2nd by Ross
 - Voice vote by aye
- Ross- make a pathway for interested parties to give relevant presentations
- Cornsilk- wants to make sure that there's a way for Wolf Creek to be heard fairly
- Woodard- discuss the role of SOC office being a liaison between the workgroup and the petitioner
 - Smithers, Cornsilk, Ross agree
- Woodard continues criteria discussions
- Woodard- how to properly liaise with those that wish to communicate with/provide information to the group
- Abbey Phillips clarification- it sounds like workgroup wants information meant for them to go the Secretary's office, through the VIAB, and then to workgroup
- Courtney- clarification- it sounds like workgroup wants the ability to receive information through the SOC office and have it rerouted to them
- Board begins discussion of "General discussion of criteria" on agenda
- Discussion of whether criteria will be split up among workgroup members or review comprehensively as a whole
- Woodard- missing one piece of criteria doesn't mean an automatic "no"

- Each piece of criteria are weighed equally
- Criteria 1: Demonstrate descent from historical Indian group
 - Board discusses border requirement (that group lived within Virginia's historical boundaries)
 - Smithers expresses concerns over criteria
 - Ross- question 1 has 2 parts: were Cherokee in VA at the time, and is current petitioner descended from them?
- Criteria 2: Show that the group's members have retained a specific Indian tribal identity.
 - Board discusses this criteria
- Criteria 3: Trace the group's existence within Virginia from first contact to the present.
 - Board discusses this criteria- discussion of ability to meet criteria, Walter Plecker's influence, records from neighboring states, amended birth records
 - Woodard- benchmarks and precedents should be kept in mind, especially as met by other groups- we need to be able to show those to petitioner as an example.
- Criteria 4: Provide a complete genealogy of current group members, traced as far back as possible.
 - Discussion on criteria by group
- Criteria 5: Show that the group has been socially and culturally cohesive Indian community, at least for the twentieth century and farther back if possible, by organizing separate churches, schools, political organizations, businesses, cultural groups or the like.
 - Discussion on criteria by group
 - Woodard- this will be more anthropological as there are many ways to show continuity and connectivity
- Criteria 6: Provide evidence of contemporary formal organization, with full membership restricted to people genealogically descended from the historic tribe(s).
 - Discussion by board
 - o Aimed at governmental structure
 - o Cornsilk has criteria concerns
 - Offers resolution to require 80% of enrolled population meet genealogical requirement of Criteria #4
- Public Comment
 - Annette Price provides comment
 - William Hurd provides comment
- Announcements
 - Intent to send out poll for future meeting
- Cornsilk motion to adjourn, Smithers 2nd
 - Aye by voice vote